

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

1. CERTIFICATE NUMBER: 21-R-0124  
CUSTOMER NUMBER: 400

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 0579-0036

**ANNUAL REPORT OF RESEARCH FACILITY**  
( TYPE OR PRINT )

10/1/06 to 9/30/07

N Y State Dept Of Health/Health Research  
(b)(2)High, (b)(7)f  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

Telephone: (518)-474-2011

3. REPORTING FACILITY ( List all locations where animals were housed or used in actual research, testing, or experimentation, or held for these purposes. Attach additional sheets if necessary )

(b)(2)High, (b)(7)f

FACILITY LOCATIONS ( Sites ) - See Attached Listing

REPORT OF ANIMALS USED BY OR UNDER CONTROL OF RESEARCH FACILITY ( Attach additional sheets if necessary or use APHIS Form 7023A )

| A.<br><br>Animals Covered<br>By The Animal<br>Welfare Regulations | B. Number of animal<br>being bred,<br>conditioned, or<br>held for use in<br>teaching, testing,<br>experiments,<br>research, or<br>surgery but not ye<br>used for such<br>purposes. | C. Number of<br>animals upon<br>which teaching,<br>research,<br>experiments, or<br>tests were<br>conducted<br>involving no pain,<br>distress, or use o<br>pain-relieving<br>drugs. | D. Number of animals upon<br>which experiments,<br>teaching, research,<br>surgery, or tests were<br>conducted involving<br>accompanying pain or<br>distress to the animals an<br>for which appropriate<br>anesthetic, analgesic, or<br>tranquilizing drugs were<br>used. | E. Number of animals upon which teaching, experiments,<br>research, surgery or tests were conducted involving<br>accompanying pain or distress to the animals and for wh<br>the use of appropriate anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquiliz<br>drugs would have adversely affected the procedures, res<br>or interpretation of the teaching, research, experiments,<br>surgery, or tests. ( An explanation of the procedures<br>producing pain or distress in these animals and the reas<br>such drugs were not used must be attached to this report | F.<br><br>TOTAL NUMBER<br>OF ANIMALS<br><br>( COLUMNS<br>C + D + E ) |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 4. Dogs   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5. Cats   |  | 13   |  |  | 13   |
| 6. Guinea Pigs  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7. Hamsters   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8. Rabbits  |  | 11   |  | 1  | 12   |
| 9. Non-human Primates   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 10. Sheep   | 2  |  | 4  |  | 4  |
| 11. Pigs  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 12. Other Farm Animals  |  |  |  |  |  |
| See 7023A   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13. Other Animals   |  |  |  |  |  |
| See 7023A   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |

**ASSURANCE STATEMENTS**

- 1) Professionally acceptable standards governing the care, treatment, and use of animals, including appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, and tranquilizing drugs, prior to, during, and following actual res teaching, testing, surgery, or experimentation were followed by this research facility.
- 2) Each principal investigator has considered alternatives to painful procedures.
- 3) This facility is adhering to the standards and regulations under the Act, and it has required that exceptions to the standards and regulations be specified and explained by the principal investigator and ap Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). A summary of all such exceptions is attached to this annual report. In addition to identifying the IACUC-approved exceptions, this summary inc brief explanation of the exceptions, as well as the species and number of animals affected.
- 4) The attending veterinarian for this research facility has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.

CERTIFICATION BY HEADQUARTERS RESEARCH FACILITY OFFICIAL  
( Chief Executive Officer or Legally Responsible Institutional Official )

SIGNATURE OF C.E.O. OR INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL

NAME & TITLE OF C.E.O. OR INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL ( Type or Print )

DATE SIGNED

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

11/28/06

RGW

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

10/1/06 to 9/30/07

**CONTINUATION SHEET FOR ANNUAL REPORT  
OF RESEARCH FACILITY**  
(TYPE OR PRINT)

1. REGISTRATION NO.  
21-R-0124

CUSTOMER NO.  
400

FORM APPROVED  
OMB NO. 0579-0036

2. HEADQUARTERS RESEARCH FACILITY (Name and Address, as registered with USDA, include Zip Code)

N Y STATE DEPT OF HEALTH/HEALTH RESEARCH  
(b)(2)High, (b)(7)f  
EMPIRE STATE PLAZA  
ALBANY, NY 12237

**REPORT OF ANIMALS USED BY OR UNDER CONTROL OF RESEARCH FACILITY (Attach additional sheets if necessary or use this form.)**

| A.<br>Animals Covered<br>By The Animal<br>Welfare Regulations | B. Number of<br>animals being<br>bred,<br>conditioned, or<br>held for use in<br>teaching, testing,<br>experiments,<br>research, or<br>surgery but not<br>yet used for such<br>purposes. | C. Number of<br>animals upon<br>which teaching,<br>research,<br>experiments, or<br>tests were<br>conducted<br>involving no<br>pain, distress, or<br>use of pain-<br>relieving drugs. | D. Number of animals upon<br>which experiments,<br>teaching, research,<br>surgery, or tests were<br>conducted involving<br>accompanying pain or<br>distress to the animals<br>and for which appropriate<br>anesthetic, analgesic, or<br>tranquilizing drugs were<br>used. | E. Number of animals upon which teaching,<br>experiments, research, surgery or tests were<br>conducted involving accompanying pain or distress<br>to the animals and for which the use of appropriate<br>anesthetic, analgesic, or tranquilizing drugs would<br>have adversely affected the procedures, results, or<br>interpretation of the teaching, research,<br>experiments, surgery, or tests. (An explanation of<br>the procedures producing pain or distress in these<br>animals and the reasons such drugs were not used<br>must be attached to this report) | F.<br>TOTAL NO.<br>OF ANIMALS<br><br>(Cols. C +<br>D + E) |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 12. Other farm  |   |  |   |  |   |
| animals   |   |  |   |  |   |
| Goats   | 9   | 28   | 2   |  | 30  |
| Cows  |   | 1  |   |  | 1   |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |
| 13. Other animals   |   |  |   |  |   |
| Bats  | 3   | 5  | 98  |  | 103   |
| Raccoons  |   |  | 273   |  | 273   |
| Gray Squirrels  |   | 2  | 13  | 3  | 18  |
| Red Squirrels   |   | 1  |   | 2  | 3   |
| Chipmunk  |   |  |   | 1  | 1   |
| Opossums  |   | 35   |   |  | 35  |
| Fisher  |   | 1  |   |  | 1   |
| Skunks  |   | 14   |   |  | 14  |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |
|   |   |  |   |  |   |

**ASSURANCE STATEMENTS**

- 1) Professionally acceptable standards governing the care, treatment, and use of animals, including appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic, and tranquilizing drugs, prior to, during, and following actual research, teaching, testing, surgery, or experimentation were followed by this research facility.
- 2) Each principal investigator has considered alternatives to painful procedures.
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- 4) The attending veterinarian for this research facility has appropriate authority to ensure the provision of adequate veterinary care and to oversee the adequacy of other aspects of animal care and use.

**CERTIFICATION BY HEADQUARTERS RESEARCH FACILITY OFFICIAL**

(Chief Executive Officer or Legally Responsible Institutional official)

I certify that the above is true, correct, and complete (7 U.S.C. Section 2143)

SIGNATURE OF C.E.O. OR INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL

NAME & TITLE OF C.E.O. OR INSTITUTIONAL OFFICIAL (Type or Print)

DATE SIGNED

(b)(6), (b)(7)c

11/6/07

## **Column E Explanation**

**1. Registration Number:** 21-R-0124

**2. Number of animals listed in column E in this study:** 7

**3. Species (common name) of animals listed in column E in this study:**

Gray Squirrel, Red Squirrel, Chipmunk, Cottontail Rabbit

**4. Procedure producing pain and/or distress:**

The 6 rodents and 1 rabbit listed in column E of form 7023 and 7023A were wild animals captured in the field with live-trap cages. The 7 animals were all found dead in separate traps when checked in the morning. The traps were empty when checked the previous day. The animals likely died of stress from capture. Such species can become very excited while captured in a trap.

**5. Scientific justification: Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Projects**

The Zoonoses Program's Wildlife Rabies Vaccination Projects include the continuing Eastern Adirondack Oral Rabies Vaccination (ORV) Project and the Long Island Point-Source Rabies Outbreak Control Project. These are collaborative efforts between NYSDOH, the Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Agriculture and Markets (Ag&Mkts), the State Police, and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service-Wildlife Services (USDA APHIS-WS), Cornell University, and with the local county health departments in the affected areas. USDA is playing a key role in developing plans for a potential regional, multi-state effort to control raccoon rabies, and is able to provide wildlife biologists and technicians trained to help properly capture and handle a variety of wildlife species.

The project in the Eastern Adirondacks is both an ongoing evaluation of oral vaccination in wildlife, and a practical application of this technique of rabies control. Continued evaluation (i.e., trapping and sampling of raccoons) is necessary because oral vaccination is evolving as newer types of vaccine bait are developed and approved for field use. Surveillance for animal rabies cases in and around the vaccinated area is used to help monitor success of oral vaccination. However, systematic blood sampling to determine the proportion of the treated raccoon population that successfully finds and responds to the vaccine baits is needed to most accurately verify efficacy, particularly of newer methods of delivering the vaccine.

The aims of the Eastern Adirondack study include:

- Maintain a 'barrier' where a high enough proportion of the raccoon population is rabies-immune to prevent further northward progress of the rabies epizootic into northern Essex County, Clinton County, or ultimately Canada. This is the practical aspect of the project, sparing the northern parts of the state the considerable public health costs of dealing with the presence of raccoon rabies. No terrestrial rabies has occurred north of the baited zone since 1997 and only one case west of the

zone (Essex County in 2007).

- Comparing aerial distribution of baits in patterns that target raccoon-preferred habitat, versus the uniform-pattern distribution being employed in other raccoon vaccination studies underway in both NY and other states. Data from vaccination studies in Massachusetts have suggested that habitat-targeted baiting may be more effective for raccoons than dropping baits along uniform flight lines. Habitat targeting may be a factor in the success of the NYSDOH project to date.

The Long Island project is a planned response to the introduction of raccoon rabies on Long Island, aimed at controlling and ultimately eliminating the disease to minimize its potentially very significant impact on public health in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The plan includes oral rabies vaccination with follow-up trapping as above, preceded and augmented by trap-and-test (in which animals are captured and removed for rabies testing in a limited area around an initial rabies case) and trap-vaccinate-release (TVR) in which captured animals are injected with parenteral vaccine and released on site. TVR may also be used to augment vaccination with ORV in Essex County, particularly when animals are already captured for serum sampling.

Tomahawk box traps are set during the day in secluded sites away from human and domestic animal traffic, and camouflaged with natural materials. Posted signs explaining the purpose of the project have been used to warn the public when trapping in areas where discovery of the traps seemed more likely. State, municipal, or private properties are used for trap sites with the permission of the manager/caretaker or owner. Raccoons are captured during their nighttime foraging, and traps are checked each morning.

Since the oral vaccine is aimed at immunizing free-ranging wild raccoons, capturing wild raccoons in the baited area and determining their antibody titers is the only way to effectively assess whether vaccination was successful. Rabies cases are also monitored but surveillance efforts and other factors affect these numbers so by themselves they provide incomplete information about the true impact of vaccination. Live-trapping following bait distribution has become the standard procedure with which to evaluate new bait/vaccine presentations, vaccination success in different environments, and in different populations.

During the reporting period, a total of 7 non-target animals died while captured in a trap. These included 3 of 18 captured gray squirrels, 2 of 3 captured red squirrels, 1 of 1 captured cottontail rabbit, and 1 of 1 captured chipmunk. Most likely, these animals died of stress as such species can become very excited while in a trap. They may have depleted energy stores because of their high metabolism and low body fat. Of the 273 raccoons captured during this same period, none died while being held in the traps or during handling and release. The incidental trapping and death of a small number of non-target species was unfortunate and an unavoidable consequence of this project under the conditions employed.

## **6. Federal regulations requiring this procedure:**

Not applicable.

### **Addendum to USDA Annual Report of Research Facilities**

Facility: N. Y. State Dept. of Health / Health Research  
License number: 21-R-0124  
Years covered: 2005, 2007

It is important to note that cats are listed in Column C of the 2005 and 2007 Annual Reports of Animal Facilities to the USDA. In both of these cases, all of the cats that were listed were associated with the Oral Raccoon Rabies Vaccination Program. All of the cats were accidentally captured in the raccoon live traps and were subsequently released alive and unharmed at the specific location where they were caught.

Cats are not used in any studies being conducted in our research facilities.